Construction of road in Balmiki Basti village, Bulandshahar District, Uttar Pradesh

†*245 SHRI R. N. ARYA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to connect Balmiki Basti village in Bulandshahar, UP with pucca road under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana or under any other scheme funded by the Central Government;

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR): (a) to (c) The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) seeks to provide all weather road connectivity to all unconnected habitations in rural areas with a population of more than 500 persons. The State authorities have reported that Balmiki Basti village in Jahangirabad Block of Bulandshahar District is located within the Jahangirabad Municipal Council limits (urban area). The same cannot, therefore, be taken up under the PMGSY/any other Scheme of the Ministry of Rural Development.

RDX consignments recovered in Rajasthan

*246. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Rajasthan has recovered a number of Pakistani detonators, time devices, wireless equipments and RDX consignments from the border areas;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that these consignments were sent to India to create large scale disturbance in the country; and

(c) if so, the action taken by Government to curb such activities in the country particularly at the Indo-Pak Border?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir, A large consignment of arms/ammunition, detonators, time devices, RDX, plastic

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

explosives, AK 47 Rifle with rounds etc. have been recovered from the border areas in Rajasthan. As per inputs received from the Central agencies, the consignment had been delivered by a Pakistan-based smuggler and the Indian contact had been directed to keep it in safe custody and await further instructions from across the border. There is a strong possibility that these consignments were sent for causing public distrubances.

In order to curb such activities, the Government has adopted a multi-pronged approach which includes, *inter-alia*, strengthening border management to check illegal cross-border activities, fencing/flood lighting the entire border, round the clock patrolling by the Border Security Force, gearing up of intelligence machinery, improved technology, weapons and equipments for the security forces, both at the Centre and the States. Night curfew has also been imposed by the State Government along the Indo-Pak border in Rajasthan.

Withdrawal of National Programme on Improved Chulhas

*247. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Programme on Improved Chulhas (NPIC) is being withdrawn;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) how many poor rural women are going to be adversely affected due to such a decision?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) No, Sir. A proposal for transferring the National Programme on Improved Chulhas (NPIC), along with many other Centrally Sponsored Schemes, to the State Plan Sector is presently under consideration of the Committee of the National Development Council (NDC). To tide over the current financial year (2002-03), the NPIC is being continued, for which suitable budget provision is expected at the Revised Estimate stage. Besides, the Union Ministry of Rural Development are continuing to include the construction of improved chulhas as an important component of the Indira Awas Yojana and many State Governments have started promoting improved chulhas in their respective rural housing schemes.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.